



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



Volume 95 Number 7

July, 1995

Club Picnic Scheduled for July 11th

All Club Members Invited to Attend Free Event

On Tuesday, July 11th The TRW Amateur Radio Club will hold it's first picnic of 1995 at Pollywog Park. All club members are invited to attend this event beginning at noon. The club will provide food and beverages FREE to its members and friends.

The noontime picnic will take the place of the regular evening meeting for the month of July.

Lots of Fun and Door Prizes

Our Activities Manager, Greg Martens, N6RRY, promises plenty of fun, good food, great door prizes and fantastic company. Everyone should check in on the 2 meter repeater in case the weather throws us a curve or the location must be changed at the last minute for another reason.

"And don't forget to wear your club badge and hat so we'll know who you are!" added Greg. Members who wear a club badge to meetings get a second door prize ticket, doubling their chances of being a winner.

This year's July picnic is a "thank you" to all members and friends who helped out at the TRW and Xerox Field Day and TRW Family Day efforts in June. Even if you couldn't make it to Field Day this year, come out and show your support and gratitude for the hard working team.

New Club Badges are Here

Membership Chairperson Nina Whiddon, KN6FL has received a shipment of badges for all current club members. The badges have the club logo and your name and callsign.

Best of all, the badges are FREE. To get your badge, you must show up at a club event like a meeting or swap meet. They will not be mailed out unless there are extenuating circumstances!

Remember that members wearing their badge get a free door prize ticket at club meetings. So pick up your free badge at the next club event.

Calendar of Events for July

- Mondays 7:30 PM:* DCS Net on 145.32 (-)
- Wednesdays Noon:* Emergency Communications Team Net on 145.32 (-)
- Thursdays 6:30 PM:* Club Net on 145.32 (-)
"The Bob and Ray Show"
- Fridays 7:00 AM:* Club Breakfast in the Building S Cafeteria
- July 11 at Noon:* Club Picnic at Pollywog Park. Talk-in 145.32 (-)
- July 11 at 5:15 PM:* Executive Board Meeting Building E2/1200
- July 21 at Noon:* Technical Chairman's Mtg. Building S Hamshack
- July 29 at 7:00 AM:* TRW/ARC Swap Meet Marine and Aviation

Hot Off the Press!

Tidbits from Your Humble Editor

Hello, Good-bye

You may have noticed a few changes in this edition of *Crosstalk*. After four years, Bill Shanney, KJ6GR, has come to his senses and has decided to give up the job of editing this newsletter. Actually, he has taken on a new job within TRW and finds his time for fun things more limited these days. (OK, maybe real work *can* be fun, but...) Bill will continue to be the club's Secretary.

For some reason, MY senses have left me and I have volunteered for the job. I am Rich Sauer, N6CIZ, and most recently have been the club's Emergency Coordinator. Over the years, I have held every elected office and just about every appointed board position. Including being the *Crosstalk* Editor in a previous incarnation. *Déjà vu* all over again!

Thank You's

I really want to thank Bill for the great job he has done as Editor over the past four years. You leave some big shoes to fill, my friend! Bill promises that he'll continue to write articles in the future about his antennas, radios and other ham radio-related topics. Those articles have become very popular, so I was happy that Bill said he'd continue to write. (Also, less for ME to do...).

Another "Thank You" goes to Bob Briggs, KD6WYQ, who has agreed to take over my job as Emergency Coordinator for the club so I could have time to edit this newsletter.

The Future of *Crosstalk*

Over the next few months, I plan to work to make this the best newsletter of any TRW/SEA club. As I become more comfortable getting Microsoft Word to do things I've never had it do before, I may try columns and other fancy stuff. Expect to see more graphics and photographs.

I believe that a club newsletter represents the heart and soul of the club. By keeping everyone informed about club events and activities, members feel that they are a part of something. Everyone has their pet interest. If all you do talk on the 2 meter repeater to and from work, you're missing out on what's happening in packet, or dx, or OSCAR, or Friday breakfasts. There's nothing wrong with staying in your comfortable niche but I hope, through this newsletter, to let you know of the "whole enchilada" of things going on in the world of W6TRW. We have a very active and vital club! I hope to reflect that in these pages of *Crosstalk*.

Be Famous! See Your Name in Print

But the newsletter can only be as good as the content. And that's where YOU come in. I need articles, drawings, cartoons and photographs. Send me just about anything and I'll probably print it! Don't worry about spelling, grammar or format. I can take care of that. Just send stuff in. Comments, "For Sale" ads and Letters to the Editor are all welcome.

Field Day

I know, I know. Everyone probably looked at this issue of *Crosstalk* expecting to see news and information about the biggest event the club tackles every year: Field Day. Well, it's not here. Welcome to the world of "lead time."

You see, this July issue of *Crosstalk* is being assembled during the first week of June. So Field Day hasn't even happened yet, although this IS the July issue of the newsletter and Field Day happens in June. Got that? Expect to see Field Day as the lead story in the NEXT issue of *Crosstalk*.

73 de N6CIZ • • • - • -

HF Ramblings

by Bill Shanney, KJ6GR

I was pleasantly surprised over the past few months by the many new HF rigs offered by ICOM. Their new top-of-the-line rig, the IC-775 and 775DSP, is sure to be a competitor to the FT-1000 and the TS-950. Those of you considering a high end rig purchase should wait and see what QST says about this one before parting with any of your hard earned cash. The IC-706 is aimed at the mobile and portable market with HF plus 6 and 2 meter coverage in one radio. The front panel is remoteable and the receiver tunes 30 KHz to 200 MHz. If the performance is on a par with the TS-60 and FT-900 it should be a best seller.

Now these will not be cheap rigs and some of you newcomers may not want to spend over \$1500 on a first rig. I've written many times about the virtues of QRP as a way to get started on HF and there is good news here too. Oak Hills Research has announced a new 4 band QRP transceiver kit for the 80,40,30 and 20 meter bands. From the description provided to me by Young Ryu, AB6UP it looks like a derivative of their excellent Spirit model. Oak Hills kits are first class and so is their performance. The price is under \$360 and I'll make the same offer I've made before and help any newcomer align the radio after they build it. I wish I had some spare time as this kit would make an excellent portable rig.

I hear east coast QRP stations often on 40 and 30 meters in the early evenings. They don't come pounding in but are workable. Stations in the Pacific North-West and northern California are usually very strong and provide many hours of enjoyable rag chewing for me. There are many QRP nets on the low bands and they welcome newcomers. Checking into a net is a great way to start out on QRP and get an idea how strong signals are.

A much expanded version of the *Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, W3ASK and Theodore Cohen, N4XX has recently been published by CQ Communications, Inc. *The NEW Shortwave Propagation Handbook* adds a third author, Robert Rose, K6GKU and contains all a ham needs to know about this important subject. The most modern theories and data are presented as well as a good discussion of available propagation software. This is a must have book in my opinion.

For those who are still unsure if they want to give HF a try come out and join the club on Field Day. There will be plenty of chances to operate on any band or mode, you can guest op even if you aren't yet licensed.

For Sale: Ten Tec Argonaut II HF QRP xcvr. 5 watts out on all HF bands and a general coverage receiver. Excellent Condition. \$900. Call Bill Shanney, KJ6GR evenings after 7 at 310-542-9899.

W6TRW Packet Radio Internet Gateway On the Air

by Gateway Sysop WA2KDL

In January, I asked the TRW ARC Executive Board to allow me to set up a packet radio Internet gateway for W6TRW. In May, the W6TRW gateway was completed and is now on the air!

I had help from many club members including Dave Bloodgood, KD6PRO, Terry Thompson, KB6CUT, and John Bien of TRW network services who helped with the TRW end.

Rich, N6CIZ, wanted me to write a *Crosstalk* article about the gateway. I will write first what the gateway is and then how to use it with a standard packet radio setup.

An Amateur Radio Internet Gateway is a packet system that is connected to the Internet. With our Internet connection we can move packet data at speeds of 1 million bytes a second to almost anywhere in the world with very high reliability and then back out to packet radios at the other end.

Using the Gateway

Using the W6TRW gateway on packet it is very easy. The easiest way is to set your radio to the packet repeater on 146.745 (-600) and connect to W6TRW-3. Hit return after the connection and you will have the BBS menu. Enter Help or ? to see what the commands do. If you can't reach the packet repeater directly on 146.745, connect to any netrom node and look for TCPTRW or W6TRW-3 in the nodes list. You then connect to the BBS using netrom.

What can you do on the BBS? I enjoy the QSO Conference Bridge where there are QSO's from all over the world taking place and you can join in. To get to the Conference Bridge, enter CONV at the BBS prompt or connect to W6TRW-6 on 146.745 (-600).

You can receive bulletins using the AREAS command. Just enter AF at the BBS prompt to see what bulletin areas there are. Bulletin categories can be added to include other areas of interest. Anyone logged into the BBS can access the bulletins.

You can also send mail to other users of the gateway or to any packet radio station.

The gateway can also act as a digepeater. The digepeater call sign is W6TRW-10. If you know another gateway, you can digepeat to them using our gateway digepeat feature.

Advanced users who have TCP/IP running with their packet stations can automatically route their packets through the gateway. A simple note to the sysop will add them to the "route table" and they're ready to use the gateway.

A Resource for the Ham Radio Community

The TRW ARC Internet gateway is a new resource offered by the club for club members and other amateur radio operators in southern California. The gateway is also for you and can grow with the club as we find new uses for it. I will talk about these other features in my next article about the gateway. In the near term, any feedback about the current operation will be useful to me.

If you have questions, send a message to Sysop@w6trw or stop by at the next Technical Chairman's meeting (see front of CROSSTALK for dates). Also read Steve Ford, WB8IMY's, January 1995 *QST* article "GATEWAYS: Amateur Radio Meets the Internet."

For Sale or Trade:

Hooker (Elwin Electronics) 100 watt 10 meter mobile wideband linear amplifier. Internal receive pre-amp is switchable as is PEP/RMS xmit mode. \$50.00 or will trade for a 2 meter 30 watt amplifier.

Call John Cheatham, KE6OJM
(310) 813-5903 days

TRW ARC's Wacky Weekly Net

It's "The Bob and Ray Show" on W6TRW 2 Meter Repeater

"It's taken on a life of its own" could very well describe the TRW Amateur Radio Club's weekly net.

About a year and a half ago, Rich, N6CIZ, thought a weekly net on the club's 2 meter repeater would be a fun thing to do. It started out as a simple net, with Net Control listing upcoming events, taking check in's and playing the weekly *Newsline* recording.

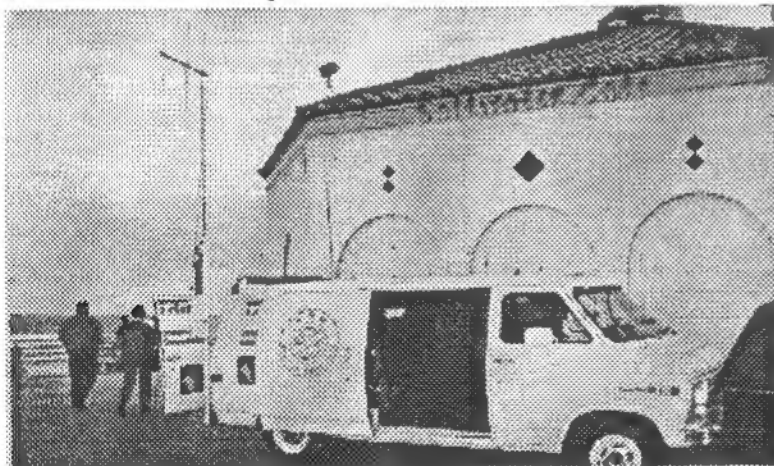
When he turned the reigns over to Bob, KD6WYQ, in January, Rich thought his work with the club net was over. Little did he (or anyone else) realize what he had started in December of '93.

Bob continued to follow the format Rich started until one fateful night when a Field Day planning meeting was scheduled at the same time as the club net. That's when Ray, KD6WYQ, drove the club's Emergency Communications van to the parking lot of the pizza joint where the meeting was being held. Together, they held the net in the parking lot and the first Bob and Ray Show was on the air.

Since then, the net has taken to the road, operating from locations ranging from the end (the over the water end!) of the Manhattan Beach pier to an El Segundo street to a fast food joint's parking lot. It's also added Rich as a producer/writer/director and phone answerer.



Bob, KD6WYQ, (left) and Ray, KD6IGI run the TRW ARC net from the club's Emergency Comm Van



"The Bob and Ray Show" on the Manhattan Beach Pier

in on the telephone and check in. Every week, someone listening on a scanner calls the cellular phone in the van to let the crew know that they are listening in.

Recently, the net was "syndicated" when the Hughes Amateur Radio Club began simulcasting the "Bob and Ray Show" on their 440 MHz repeater! Proof positive that it's become more than just a run of the mill club net.

Everyone is invited to listen and participate in the club net every Thursday night at 6:30. Just tune in to the 2 meter repeater, sit back, and enjoy. After all, we do it for you!

Every Thursday night, the crew rolls out the van and sets it up in a location somewhere around the South Bay. The van attracts visitors who drop by and get a quick discourse on ham radio and may even get put on the air! Anything is possible.

One night, instead of announcing their location, the crew used the net as a "T-Hunt," giving out clues to their hiding spot. The first ham to locate them walked away with a W6TRW T-shirt for his efforts.

The show also invites SWL's to call

TRW ARC Retiree Net on HF

by Bill Schrecengost, KE6LB

The TRW Amateur Radio Club's Retiree Net can now be heard on 7185 KHz (+/- QRM) every Monday through Friday at 2:00 PM local time. All Retired and Wish-they-Were Retired employees of TRW are welcome to participate.

Recent net participants are: K6AWS, K6AWO, KE6LB, N6CRW, K6BO, W6FQ, WA6RAY, W6KQI, K6RL, and W6SCL. Typically, three to six retirees show up and the net often lasts an hour or more.

A 1:00 PM start time was tried in January and February, but no one showed up until 2:00! So join us, every weekday at 2:00 PM for the TRW Retiree Net.

FCC Details Proposed Rule Changes

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 9, 1995

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making on several changes in amateur service rules. Details are given below.

Volunteer Examiners • Exam Credit • Club Licenses

The FCC proposes to designate one volunteer examiner of a team as the examination session manager, saying that would increase "examination efficiency." The FCC said that continuing to require at least three VEs to be present would preserve the protection of cross-checking, as sought by the ARRL.

The Commission also proposes to give examination credit to former licensees, as requested by the ARRL in RM-8418. The FCC said the League's position had merit, and the proposed new rule would allow VEs to give exam element credit for any exam the applicant had previously passed. In addition, the FCC asks for comments on criteria "it should use" to allow credit on amateur exams for other types of formerly and currently held US operator licenses and foreign licenses.

The FCC also agreed with the ARRL proposal in RM-8462 that bona fide Amateur Radio clubs should comprise a minimum of four people in order to be eligible for a club station license and proposes a rule to that effect.

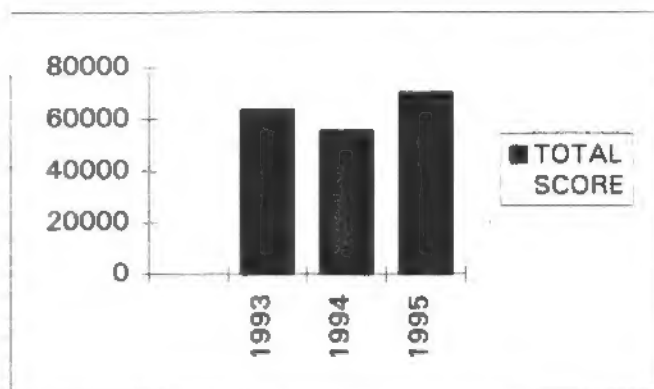
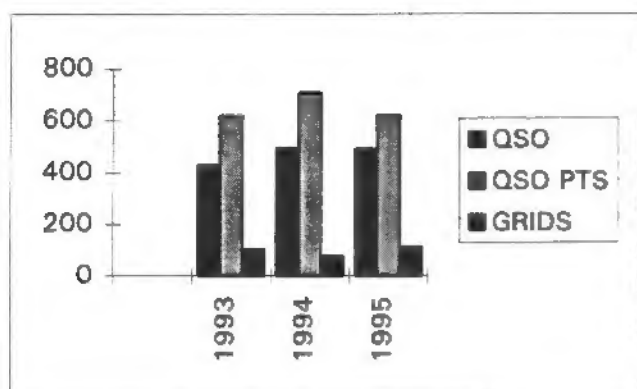
One-by-One Call Signs for Special Event Stations • Portable Indicators

In response to an ARRL request as part of the vanity call sign program, the Commission proposes to make one-by-one call signs available to special event stations. Requests for such call signs would have to be made 120 days in advance; the period of the special call sign would be 15 days or for the duration of the event, whichever is shorter. The application would have to state the nature of the event and include a list of requested call signs in order of preference.

Finally, the FCC also proposes to allow portable indicators to be included before, after, or both before and after, the assigned call sign. This was, the FCC said, in response to several informal requests for clarification of its rule 97.119(c).

The comment deadline for these proposals, in WT Docket 95-57, is July 14, 1995. The reply comment deadline is August 14, 1995.

TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JUNE 95 VHF CONTEST RESULTS



	1993	1994	1995
QSO	431	497	493
QSO PTS	620	711	622
GRIDS	103	78	113
TOTAL SCORE	63,860	55,458	70,286

ARRL VHF QSO PARTY JUNE 1995

CALLSIGN: W6TRW

MODE: SSB/FM/CW

CLASS: MM

BAND	QSO	QSO PTS	GRIDS
50	217	217	70
144	158	158	21
222	44	88	6
432	63	126	11
903	0	0	0
1296	11	33	5
=====			
TOTALS	493	622	113 => 70,286

OPERATORS

NAME

KB6TVJ	MIKE ZINGERY
KD6DYK	WENDY CRAWFORD
KD6IGI	RAY ENRIQUEZ
KD6PRO	DAVID BLOODGOOD
KD6WYQ	BOB BRIGGS
KE6MJU	MIKE LEE
KE6JFT	STEVE QUINTUS
KE6SNF	RICHARD WITTE
KO6MZ	JOHN SHEPHERD
N6ZAY	BLAINE MILLIRON
WB2DRH	JOE ZBORIL
WA6MPF	DAVE LEE

Hamcon '95 Convention on the Queen Mary Labor Day Weekend

For the past several months, the *Crosstalk* has included a reservation form for the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention (Hamcon '95). Have you sent in your's yet? This year, the convention will be held on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, September 1-3.

Maybe you meant to send in your reservation in the past but just never got around to it. Or maybe you're not a member of the ARRL. Or maybe you don't have a clue what this convention is all about. No matter what your excuse is, I urge you to fill it out, write a check and send it in. Why? Well, this convention is THE largest gathering of ham radio enthusiasts in the area.

In addition to meeting and partying with your friends, every major vendor of ham radio gear will have their "latest and greatest" goodies on display. Every ham radio store will be selling their wares at special convention rates. Guest speakers like Gordon West, Joe Moell and Dr. George Fischbeck will be on hand along with LOTS of others giving you insight to different aspects of the hobby.

The TRW ARC will be in attendance with the official unveiling of our new Emergencny Communications Van. It will be on display along with others from throughout Southern California and Arizona. The club will also host a "Hospitality Suite" where you can lift a brew and rest your feet.

Although it's worth while to join, you DO NOT have to be a member of the ARRL to attend the convention. The convention is hosted by the American Radio Relay League and the Los Angeles Association of Amateur Radio Clubs. If you pre-register before August 8th, the cost is \$12 and includes free admission to the ship, a logo pin and enters you in a special prize drawing.

Send in your registration today and join the club on the Queen Mary in September.

RCMA Meeting

If you are interested in listening in to action on your scanner, you owe it to yourself to attend the monthly meeting of the Radio Communications Monitoring Association (RCMA). On the second Wednesday of each month, the group meets in Santa Monica for dinner and an exchange of the latest info on scanning the airwaves in Southern California.

Monthly "regulars" include members of the LA police and fire departments, news reporters and photographers, book authors and just plain folks like us who enjoy the scanner hobby. Come to a meeting and you might meet and hear "war stories" from Channel 2 News pilot Bob Tur, or *Police Call* author Gene Hughes or an LAPD Deputy Chief. Get the inside scoop from the guys on the inside!

The RCMA meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM. The location is Acculpuco Restaurant, on Ocean Park Blvd. just west of Bundy Drive. For more information, contact Rich, N6CIZ.

FER SALE: FOUR SAIL: FORE SALE: FOR SALE:

☐ Commodore C-64 computer and model 1581 3.5 inch FD drive. With power supplies, books, cables. \$50.00 OBO.

☐ TVRO Inc. 1.2 Ghz yagi (disk style) antenna/downconverter and power supply. 1st \$5.00 takes it!

Call: John Cheatham, KE6OJM, (310) 813-5903